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SOURCE Hsin Kuan-ch'a (New Observer), Vol I, No 4, 1951.

RESTORATION OF AN-SHAN IRONWORKS, 1949 - 1950

Since the first blast furnace started on 9 July 1949, the An-shan Ironworks has moved from partial recovery to integrated production. The modern iron and steel industry of new China was thus inaugurated and 9 July was celebrated by the people's steel capital as Recovery Day.

When An-shan was first liberated, on 29 February 1948, 70 percent of its buildings had been destroyed. An area extending 20 miles north to south and 5 or 6 miles east to west was occupied by only 1,000 starving workers. The Central People's Government distributed several million catties of grain for general relief. In addition, each of the 1,000 workers and employees who protected the factory and each of the 100 workers in the training class received from one-half catty -- the same quantity as received by cadres and soldiers -- to 3 catties, after work was partially resumed. Protecting the factory was a very difficult job; occasionally shootings occurred. The starving people often attempted to destroy machinery and buildings.

To support the armies at the front, the Communist Party and the Workers' Union mobilized the workers to restore production at the ironworks. Under constant enemy threat, they produced 21,000 hoes, 8,000 military boilers, 3,000 rounds of ammunition, and other products such as nails, wire, telephones, transformers, and electric motors.

On 15 July 1948 the enemy recaptured Liaoyang and pushed forward to An-shan. The Northeast Party Bureau immediately gave instructions to evacuate equipment and material which could be easily destroyed by the enemy. In a period of 70 days, 1,829 carloads of essential equipment and material, amounting to 55,000 tons, was evacuated.

The An-shan Ironworks was recaptured in November 1948 along with the material supply bases in Fu-shan and Fou-hsin and the plentiful power supply of Hsiao-feng-man. The party, the administrators, and the union authorities collectively launched a movement for the contribution of material and equipment. From 20 December 1948 to 10 January 1949, 4,255 (73 percent) out of

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5,835 workers made direct contributions. The total contribution was estimated at about 52,000 units of material and equipment, worth 2.4 billion Northeast yuan. The original recovery and production plans were surpassed and the 1949 plan had to be revised upward four times. The daily output of copper increased from 3 tons to 5 or 6 tons; the ammonium sulfate output increased from 8.82 tons to 10.1 tons. The puppet record for iron production was surpassed by improving the hot-air blast furnace. Thanks to the assistance of Soviet experts, the smelting process was shortened from 22 hours to 12 hours and the No 4 blast furnace, which was to be completed in May 1950, was completed at the end of 1949.

The number of workers increased daily; the total at the end of 1949 was 7 or 8 times greater than that at the beginning of the year. The number of operating shops also increased each month. Since 9 June, every shop of the An-shan Ironworks has had equipment in operation.

Since 1950, the An-shan shops have conducted the first phase of production planning according to standards of modern enterprises and principles of democratic management. Each factory has its own management committee, cultural and technical study groups, and various other organizations. The 1950 production quota has been set at 6.92 times that of 1949. Nevertheless, 83.2 percent of the quota was completed in the first quarter of 1950 and 95 percent was completed in the second.

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